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DAREDEVIL®

"Fall from Grace" chapter 5

McDANIEL

MOMENTS ETCHED IN TIME, FRAGILE LIKE GLASS.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

A YOUNG MATT MURDOCK NEGLECTS LAW STUDIES FOR THE "EDUCATION" ELEKTRA NATCHIOS HAS TO OFFER.

CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION.

RECKLESS BRAVERY CONSPIRES AGAINST THE COUPLE--

--A HOSTAGE CRISIS ENDING IN DEATH AND TRAGEDY.

LET GO OF ME! POPPA! POPPA!

WE TRIED TO SAVE HIM...

IT'S TOO LATE. HIS HEART... IT'S STOPPED.

A BLEAK GRAVEYARD.

THE FIRE THAT MARKED THEIR AFFAIR DIES OUT. ELEKTRA'S EMOTIONS GROW COLD IN GRIEF.

ELEKTRA... DON'T!

PLEASE DON'T GO...

MANHATTAN.

YEARS LATER, AND CRUEL FATE TURNS LOVERS INTO ENEMIES.

MATT NOW DAREDEVIL, A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE...

...ELEKTRA A MERCENARY AND ASSASSIN FOR HIRE.

WAITARI, NEW ZEALAND.

RAGE FIRED HER SOUL.

SAN CONCEPCION, MEXICO.

THWOK

VIOLENCE BECAME AN ART.

CRAIOVA, ROMANIA.

DEATH TOOK HER AS ITS LOVER.

BUT THERE WOULD BE TIMES--

--WHILE THE BLOOD DRIED ON HER SAIS--

--SHE WOULD STILL FEEL ALONE IN HER DARK PASSION.

THEN HER THOUGHTS WOULD TURN BACK TO MATT.

THE SECRET HE'D SHARED WITH HER.

I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU.

KRAKK

THE FURY THAT TORE AT HIS OWN INNER BEING.

SPUKK

MATT HAD FOUND A WAY TO KEEP HIS DEMON IN CHECK.

AND ELEKTRA WOULD BROOD ON THE CONSEQUENCE OF LETTING HERS RUN FREE.

AN INNER CITY CHURCH, ABANDONED AND BLASPHEMED.

ELEKTRA LIES DEAD-- MURDERED-- HER CORPSE ABOUT TO BECOME A DEADLY TOOL OF A NINJA CULT CALLED "THE HAND."

PROTECTED BY THE SHADOW WARRIOR STONE, MURDOCK HAS ONLY SECONDS TO REALIZE A MAD DESIRE.

PITTING HIS PASSION AGAINST DEATH.

HOPING HIS LOVE CAN BE A BEACON THAT WILL LEAD THE WOMAN BACK TO LIFE.

IF THERE'S ANY WAY TO BRING YOU BACK-- I'LL DO IT--

YOURS IS A VALIANT SPIRIT, MURDOCK, BUT YOU LACK THE TRAINING FOR SO COMPLEX A RITUAL.

NOW I MUST FINISH THIS BUSINESS... THAT THE BITTER DARKNESS WITHIN ELEKTRA NEVER BE MISUSED!

I COULDN'T DO IT, ELEKTRA. JUST DON'T KNOW HOW...

...I'M SORRY...

SOMETHING ABOUT HER...

...SHE... SHE IS CLEAN! MURDOCK... HE HAS PURGED HER! THE HATRED WITHIN-- GONE!

A PURITY THAT GIVES COLD FLESH... NEW WARMTH...

WHEN DAREDEVIL REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, STONE AND ELEKTRA'S BODY ARE BOTH GONE.

THE MAN CAN ONLY ASSUME HE FAILED IN REVIVING THE WOMAN HE LOVED...

...THAT THE WHITE NINJA TOOK HER TO A SAFE AND FINAL RESTING PLACE.

BUT MATT MURDOCK WILL NEVER KNOW.

HE WILL NEVER KNOW.

MOMENTS ETCHED IN TIME, FRAGILE LIKE GLASS.

GLASS BREAKS SO EASILY.

AND THE JAGGED PIECES CUT DEEP...

The face of a lover is an unknown, precisely because it is invested with so much of oneself. It is a mystery, containing, like all mysteries, the possibility of torment.

James Baldwin
Another Country, 1962

FALL FROM GRACE PART 5

RED SNOW

by
D.G. CHICHESTER
&
SCOTT McDANIEL
INKERS
COLLAZO & AVON
LETTERER
BILL OAKLEY
COLORIST
PAT GARRAHY
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TONIGHT. NEW YORK CITY.

CENTRAL PARK'S BELVEDERE CASTLE.

SOMEWHERE IN THE FIVE BOROUGHS IS HIDDEN "ABOUT FACE"--

--A VIRAL PROTOTYPE WITH THE POWER TO REMAKE WHOMEVER IT INFECTS.

DAREDEVIL AND A SAI-WIELDING PARTNER HUNT THE VILLAINOUS CULT CALLED SNAKEROOT, BEFORE THOSE NINJAS USE THE VIRUS TO BIRTH A NIGHTMARE.

THE "LIVING" VAMPIRE NAMED DR. MICHAEL MORBIUS KNOWS NONE OF THIS.

HE ONLY KNOWS THE OBSCENE HUNGER WITHIN THAT TELLS HIM IT'S TIME TO FEED.

THE VAMPIRE'S MISTAKE IS MY ALLY, DAREDEVIL! DEPRIVING YOU OF YOUR ACCOMPLICE--

--AND LEAVING YOU OPEN--

--WHAT?!

NOT WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING, ENTEKI?

FRIK!

YOUR ATTACK ON THE YOUTH TELLS ME WHO IS INNOCENT AND WHO IS AGGRESSOR...

...AND THAT MY APPETITE WILL BE SATED WITH THE TWO OF YOU!

IT'S CALLED BIO-MIMETICS--

--SYNTHETIC MATERIALS MADE WITH THE SAME TECHNIQUES USED BY NATURAL ORGANISMS.

ARMOR AND FABRIC WITH THE MOLECULAR TOUGHNESS OF STEEL-LIKE THINGS LIKE RAT TEETH AND SPIDER WEBBING.

TOUGH BREAK.

DAREDEVIL DOESN'T BOTHER EXPLAINING TO THE SNAKEROOT--

--NOT WHEN HE CAN SHOW HIM.

MORBIUS'S CONDITION IS THE MANGLED RESULT OF AN ARROGANT EXPERIMENT TO CURE HIMSELF OF A RARE BLOOD DISEASE.

THE CURE SHOULD'VE KILLED HIM--IT DIDN'T. OTHERS WHO'VE RUN INTO THE GOOD DOCTOR HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN SO LUCKY.

MY VOW IS TO FEED ONLY ON THE BLOOD OF CRIMINALS...

...MAKING YOU MY NEXT VICTIM, OUTLAW!

STONE OF THE CHASTE IS NO MAN'S VICTIM!

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED I'M NO MAN, NINJA!

NEITHER ARE YOU TRULY "MONSTER"!

YOUR SKIN-- TOO HARD TO BREAK THROUGH!

SKRAAK!

YOU ARE NO "UNDEAD"! YOUR HEART STILL BEATS--

HRUKKK

--PUMPING BLOOD OUT OF YOUR WOUNDS--

--TO POOL AROUND YOUR BODY IN COOLING PUDDLES!

NOT EVERYONE HERE IS AS WELL GUARDED AS YOU AND STONE, DAREDEVIL...

...I'LL HAVE AT LEAST ONE LIFE IN REVENGE FOR MY FATHER'S DEATH!

TWIIIP!

HIDDEN CONNECTORS SNAP TOGETHER.

SNAP!

BUILT-IN EXTENDERS TRIGGER OUTWARD.

SNRAP!

I'M NOT LETTING YOU FINISH WHAT STONE'S STARTED.

INTERNAL RADAR SHOWS THE BLIND MAN STROBING ECHOES OF THE SHAFTS. HYPERSENSITIVE SKIN TRACKS THEM BY THE AIR PUSHED AHEAD OF THE ARROWS.

IMPRESSIVE ... BUT WASTEFUL!

TWAAK!

LIKE GRAND-STANDING WITH THOSE SAIS IS SO PRODUCTIVE?

THE ENEMY IS NOT EVERYONE, STONE.

THIS MAN'S HURT... BADLY! THE WAY HE'S... DISTENDING...

AN INHUMAN QUALITY THAT CLEARLY TORTURES HIM... DEATH WOULD HAVE BEEN A BLESSING!

HIS INTER-FERENCE WAS CER-TAINLY OUR CURSE-- IT'S COST US TIME WE DID NOT HAVE!

I SENSE THE SNAKEROOT HAVE USED ENTEKI'S DIS-TRACTION TO AN ADVANTAGE--THEY'VE CLEARED OUT, TAKING PASSIM WITH THEM!

I SAID MORBIUS IS HURT, AND WE HAVE TO HELP HIM! THE SNAKE-ROOT--AND EVEN EDDIE --WILL HAVE TO WAIT!

WHAT-- WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MAN?

N-NOTHING... INSIDES TORN... NOTHING EXCEPT...

...BLOOD... I NEED BLOOD...

EAST COAST MEMORIAL, BATTERY PARK.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS...

YES I DO, HORNHEAD! TAKIN' MYSELF OUT OF HELPIN' YOU HUNT "ABOUT FACE" IS BEST FOR ALL INVOLVED!

TRUTH IS, I DO WANT IT FOR MYSELF.

MAYBE IT COULD DO ITS THING BETWEEN MY SOFTWARE AND "MEAT-WARE"! RECONNECT MY SENSES--

--LEMME EXPERIENCE THE WORLD AS MORE THAN SIMULA-TION! I REMEMBER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL THINGS LIKE A MAN DOES--

--AN' I WANT THAT BACK!

NOT THAT I EVEN KNOW THERE'S ANYTHING HUMAN LEFT IN HERE TO HOOK BACK INTO...

TRUTH IS, I DON'T TRUST MYSELF IF I DO COME NEAR ENOUGH TO GET MY HANDS ON THE VIRUS!

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT ME, DAREDEVIL--

--I MEAN, IT AIN'T LIKE NOW I'M THE "NEW AGE, CRYSTAL-SNIFFIN', TOUCHY-FEELY" SIEGE OR NOTHIN'!

DON'T WORRY... YOUR SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME!

AND DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH WHAT'S UNDER ALL THAT HARDWARE.

BEING SELFLESS ABOUT THAT VIRUS ANSWERS THE QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING HUMAN IN THERE...

A LONG-FORGOTTEN SUBWAY STATION, DEEP BELOW CITY HALL.

A MURDEROUS CONSPIRACY OF NINJA KNOWN AS THE SNAKEROOT.

HURT HIM, GENKOTSU!

YOU'RE NOT SEEKING PAIN, BUDO, BUT INFORMATION!

HAVE TO DO BETTER, DOKA!

OR WORSE, FERUZE!

SOMETHING TROUBLES YOU, YOUNG ENTEKI...

NO, N-NOTHING, TEKAGI...

...I WAS ONLY WONDERING...

EXACTLY WHAT MANNER OF "NIGHTMARE" IT IS YOU'VE JOINED?

THE UNKNOWN CAN BE FRIGHTENING, SON. LET ME DISPEL SOME OF THE MYSTERY...

"FINE SCHOOLS" REJECTED FERUZE FOR NOTHING WORSE THAN RACE AND BACKGROUND. OUR TEACHINGS KNOW NO RESTRICTIONS.

DOKA'S FLAME WAS LIT BY A FAMILY SKILLED IN ABUSE. HE THINKS THEY WERE STILL SLEEPING WHEN HE SET FIRE TO THE VILLA...

GENKOTSU WAS A HOLY MAN--PERHAPS HE STILL IS--FINDING HIS PEACE IN THE CAREFUL APPLICATION OF PAIN...

...AS HERE WITH EDWARD PASSIM, HOLDING THE SECRET OF THE VIRUS WE SEEK IN HIS MAD BRAIN.

I--WE--WANT "ABOUT FACE," EDDIE! WHERE DID YOU LOSE IT, YOU PATHETIC PIECE OF--

BUDO IS STILL HENRY KENKOY, STILL RELIVING THE SHAME OF HIS COURT MARTIAL AND TRYING TO RECLAIM PAST GLORIES...

LORD DAITO IS A BORN LEADER... FORCED TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF SERVING UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE "BEAST" WE WORSHIP...

AND YOU, GREAT TEKAGI?

MY STORY IS PARTICULARLY LONG... AND NOT ONE THAT WILL DO ANYTHING TO QUIET YOUR CONCERNS.

WHAT WE ARE... IS NOT FOR ALL. THE PRICE OF BEING SNAKEROOT CAN BE GREAT, SON, BUT SO CAN THE REWARDS.

BOTH THE ONES YOU HOLD IN YOUR HAND, AND THOSE YOU FEEL IN YOUR SOUL.

YOU DID WELL AT THE CASTLE, BOWMAN. THIS BELONGED TO YOUR FATHER...

HIS MASK...

WEAR IT WITH PRIDE, ENTEKI.

I'VE A FEELING YOU'RE GOING TO FIT IN WELL HERE... DON'T YOU?

Y-YES...

ST. JUDE'S HOSPITAL.

THE MEDICAL LAB OF DR. MORGAN MICHAELS, A.K.A. MICHAEL MORBIUS.

...THE BLOOD! IT'S WHAT I NEED--TO HEAL! YES--TO HEAL!

DO... DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO.

I ALWAYS DO, DAREDEVIL. ALWAYS.

BUT... BUT THIS MUST BE ALONE...

SHRIIP GLUP!

YOU KNOW, STONE, UP UNTIL YOU CAME OUT OF THE SHADOWS--UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR IT'D BEEN YOU HUNTING THE SNAKEROOT--

--I'D ALMOST STARTED THINKING --DELUDING, I GUESS-- THAT ELEKTRA HAD SOMEHOW... COME BACK!

THE SAI WAS HER WEAPON, MURDOCK. I USE IT IN HER MEMORY.

BUT THE WOMAN YOU KNEW IS... NO MORE.

I KNOW. I'VE KNOWN THAT FOR A LONG TIME.

THE SNAKEROOT HAVE OTHER PLANS! THEY HOLD PART OF HER ESSENCE-- BITTER AND DARK, THE SOUL OF THE ASSASSIN--

--AND USE IT TO EMPOWER THEIR WARRIOR ERYNYS! THIS IS THE MANNER OF EVIL THE CHASTE MUST EVER FIGHT AGAINST!

THE "CHASTE"? STICK NEVER CALLED YOUR ORDER BY NAME.

YOUR TEACHER HAD A MORE COLORFUL FOUR-LETTER EQUIVALENT.

PARDON THE INTRUSION... BUT I NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR EARLIER. ALTHOUGH MISTAKING YOUR ACTIONS WAS UNFORGIVABLE...

...THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN MAKE THINGS UP TO YOU?

THERE ARE QUESTIONS YOU CAN ANSWER, DOCTOR. EXPERT ADVICE YOU CAN PROVIDE REGARDING VIRUSES... AND TELEPATHY.

AN ODD MIX. THERE'S BEEN SOME HYPOTHETICAL RESEARCH, MOSTLY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IN THE SIXTIES...

FORGIVE THE LAB COAT. IT HELPS ME THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST.

YOU UNDERSTAND, I'M SURE. YOUR OWN UNIFORM... THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES TO YOU AND OTHERS.

DOES IT MATTER THAT MUCH?

INDEED! THIS NEW LOOK LEFT ME WONDERING WHO YOU WERE, DAREDEVIL...

...IT STILL DOES.

NORMAL VIRUSES INJECT NUCLEIC ACID AND PROTEIN ELEMENTS INTO THE HOST CELL TO BEGIN THE CONTROL PROCESS.

A TELEPATHIC VIRUS WOULD BE A PARTICLE CLUTTERED WITH GENE-SPLICED MATERIAL NEEDED FOR THE MENTAL CONTROL ASPECT--

--THERE WOULD BE NO ROOM FOR THE NORMAL INTRODUCTORY PROTEINS AND ACIDS!--

--REQUIRING OTHER MEANS OF ENTRY!

ONE WOULD BE OVER A SUSPENSION MEDIUM RICH IN PROTEINS AND ACIDS, THE VIRUS TRIGGERED BY AN EXTERNAL TELEPATH.

THE OTHER WAY IN WOULD BE INGESTING THE VIRUS DIRECTLY, THEN HAVING YOUR INDIVIDUAL THOUGHTS "GUIDE" THE PARTICLE INTO THE CELL.

THIS IS THE SNAKEROOT'S GOAL! USE EDDIE PASSIM TO FIND THE LOST VIRUS... AND FUSE ELEKTRA'S ESSENCE TO ERYNYS!

THIS VIRUS... IT'S REAL? IT COULD REWORK MY CELLS FROM WITHIN--

--C-CURE MY AFFLICTION! RESTORE MY HUMANITY...!

SETTLE DOWN, MORBIUS! THIS THING'S DANGEROUS... THERE ARE ALREADY ENOUGH PLAYERS LOOKING TO KILL EACH OTHER OVER IT!

OF COURSE, DAREDEVIL... NO NEED TO WORRY. I'VE NO INTEREST IN YOUR VIRUS, AND NO WAY OF FINDING IT IF I DID WANT IT...

MORBIUS'S HEART SKIPS ONLY TWO BEATS...

...BUT IT'S ENOUGH FOR DAREDEVIL'S HYPER-SENSES TO TELL HIM THE VAMPIRE'S A LIAR ON BOTH COUNTS.

DON'T GIVE ME ANY REASON TO DOUBT YOU, MORBIUS...

WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

AND IT APPEARS YOU HAVE OTHER THINGS THAN ME TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH!

THE JANITORIAL STAFF LOOKS TO HAVE MOVED UP FROM THE WEEKLY WORLD NEWS...

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

TROUBLE SEEING IN THE DARK? LET ME BRING IT A LITTLE CLOSER...

CLOSE ENOUGH FOR ENHANCED FEELING TO "READ" THE RAISED INK ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE BIG APPLE ADVOCATE...

...TREMBLING FINGERS TRACING EACH DAMNING LETTER.

MATT MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL?

Lawyer May Be Stre

by Sara Ha

ilante

This is a story of a crimi-

may think this

but he has tak

front Let's

ve have no

"justice"

ike this

w the

JED'S GOOD TIME GREASY SPOON.

JUST SOUTH OF HOUSTON STREET.

IF THE CHILI DOESN'T KILL YOU, URICH...

...THESE WILL! SOMETHING'S GOT TO PUT ME OUTTA MY MISERY...

FWOOSH

I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE...

...THOSE ARE BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH, BEN!

AND THIS HEADLINE IS BAD FOR MINE! NOT TO MENTION ANYONE I COME IN CONTACT WITH!

THWAP!

TWIP

M-MATT... YOU'RE ANGRY...

DISAPPOINTED. IN THE REPORTER WHO HAD THE STORY, AND WHO PROMISED ME IT WOULD NEVER SEE PRINT! WHAT HAPPENED, URICH?

HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO WHAT THIS MEANS?

ANYONE GUNNING FOR MATT MURDOCK BECAUSE HE MIGHT BE DAREDEVIL PUTS EVERY-ONE AROUND ME AT RISK!

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT... THAT'S ALL I'VE BEEN DOING SINCE THAT "PAPER" CAME OUT!

I THINK IT WAS AN INTERN... SARA... SHE BROKE INTO MY COM-PUTER FILES, AND...

TALKING TO SOMEBODY, BUDDY?

NO. NOBODY...

easy Spoon Diner

"...NOT ANY MORE."

MATT MURDOCK'S APARTMENT BUILDING.

PERRY STREET, MANHATTAN.

ANY REPORTING TIPS FOR US OLD VETERANS, SARA?

WELL, BOB, GOOD REPORTING'S JUST--

ROBERT DENNEHY, WFET! AS ALWAYS, WE'RE *FIRST* WITH THE *STORY*, BRINGING YOU THE *REPORTER* WHO *BROKE* THE NEWS--

--ON THE *MAN* WHO MAY BE *DAREDEVIL!*

BREAKING INTO A MAN'S *APARTMENT* IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!

B-BEN...

WE GETTING THIS ON TAPE? I HOPE?

STEVE, HE'S *SCARING* ME!

I *KNOW* HOW YOU *GOT* YOUR "STORY," LITTLE GIRL—AND I'M *NOT* GOING TO *LET* YOU *GET AWAY* WITH IT!

ALL RIGHT, OLD MAN, YOU'RE *OUTTA HERE!*

TURNING A MAN'S LIFE UPSIDE DOWN FOR A BYLINE! YOU'VE GOT *NO* FACTS, SARA!

ACCUSING A *BLIND MAN* OF BEING A *STREET VIGILANTE*... LOOK AT THE *FACTS*, LITTLE *REPORTER WANNABE!*

THE FACTS TELL A DIFFERENT STORY...

"LOOK" AT ALL THOSE SHARP EDGES AND POINTS!

A BLIND GUY COULD GET HIMSELF HURT...

SHRIIP

THE LAW OFFICES OF NELSON & MURDOCK.

WORLDWIDE PLAZA BUILDING.

"I WENT BY MATT'S PLACE TO TALK TO HIM LIKE YOU ASKED, FOGGY..."

KRAKOOM!

...AND IT'S A ZOO! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY TEAR HIS PLACE APART-- AND HIM WITH IT!

YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

THIS COULDN'T BE AT A WORSE TIME, KAREN...

...ALL THE WORK HERE, I MEAN-- THAT'S WHAT I WANTED YOU TO GET MATT BACK ON TRACK ABOUT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS DAREDEVIL NONSENSE, ANYWAY?

RIGHT THERE IN PRINT... BONUVA--

LOOK, THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN LINES IN MY AND MATT'S RELATIONSHIP, KAREN... THINGS WE'VE TENDED TO STAY CLEAR OF...

THERE ARE NO "LINES" HERE, FOGGY! YOU'RE EITHER HIS FRIEND AND YOU WANT TO HELP--

--OR YOU'RE NOT, AND YOU DON'T! WHICH IS IT?

GET ME JUDGE CRATER... YES, I KNOW THE HOUR, AND I DON'T CARE WHERE HE IS!

TELL HIM IT'S FOGGY--FRANKLIN--NELSON CALLING! I NEED A RESTRAINING ORDER... PROBABLY A DOZEN OF THEM...

BAY RIDGE. BROOKLYN.

STONE AND DAREDEVIL CONTINUE THEIR HUNT... MOVING THROUGH THE CITY'S HIDDEN CORRIDORS!

BUT THEY LEAVE A TRAIL...

...LIKE ANY PREY...

TAKE YOUR TIME TRACKIN', SWEET MEAT!

mmm-mm... FROM DOWN HERE IT'S A VIEW UP AT HEAVEN!

JOHN GARRETT LIKES TO THINK OF HIMSELF AS A ROMANTIC--

--SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH LUST-COLORED GLASSES.

IN THIS CASE HIS VISION'S CLOUDED--

--DOUBLED, DOMINATED--

--BY MENTAL IMAGES OF A HOT-AS-SIN ELEKTRA.

ELEKTRA! YOU AN' ME... WHATTA YA SAY?

IT'S ERYNYS, GARRETT! DON'T MAKE ME HAVE TO TELL YOU AGAIN!

BE QUICK... WE'LL TAKE THE VERRAZANO NARROWS AND CUT THEM OFF!

FRKAAK

OKAY. YEAH. I CAN DO THE STRONG AND SILENT THING!

HECK, IF IT MEANS I MIGHT SCORE, I CAN EVEN PRETEND TO BE SENSITIVE...

THE ARTHUR KILL, OFF STATEN ISLAND.

AMONG A HALF-SUNKEN GRAVEYARD OF SHIPS AND TUGS.

DOES HE SUSPECT WE FOLLOW?

QUIET!

HE CAN-NOT HEAR US, DAREDEVIL, SO LONG AS WE "SPEAK" WITH OUR MINDS.

HIS ADRENALINE'S HIGH, STONE, BUT THERE'S NO SCENT HE'S NERVOUS... JUST DESPERATE TO FIND HIMSELF A CURE!

MORBIUS SPENT TIME UNDER THE CITY DURING A... "DISTURBED PERIOD." THAT MAY HAVE PROVIDED A CLUE TO THE VIRUS... ASIDE FROM EDDIE...

YOU REMAIN UNCOMFORTABLE ABANDONING THE HUNT FOR PASSIM, DAREDEVIL... BUT THE FASTEST ROUTE TO THE VIRUS MUST TAKE PRIORITY!

THIS MAY NOT'VE BEEN IT, STONE!

TOO SMALL BUT FOR THE VAMPIRE'S ABILITY TO DISTEND...

--HE COULD'VE USED HIS HARDWARE TO TRACK MORBIUS THROUGH THE WALLS!

TOO BAD SIEGE TOOK HIMSELF OUT OF THE LOOP-- HE WAS AFRAID THE VIRUS WAS TOO MUCH TEMPTA-TION FOR HIS OWN PROBLEMS--

WE, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE TO GO AROUND...

DOWN.

WHAT IS IT?

SOME IDIOT BEHIND US JUST CHAMBERED A ROUND!

NOT JUST ANY IDIOT, PALLY...

KLIK-CHNK

BRAKA-BRAKA-BRAKA!

...NAME'S JOHN GARRETT, S.H.I.E.L.D. CYBORG, AND A REAL MAN'S MAN!

YOU DON'T SEE ME RUNNIN' AROUND IN TIGHTS, NOW, DO YA?

MY ARMOR CAN HOLD IT OFF, SOME...

PTING!

KTANG!

DON'T BE SO RECKLESS, DAREDEVIL...

KTING!

CAN'T HELP IT-- COMES WITH THE NAME!

PTANG!

...MY BODY IS A SHIELD AGAINST ANY THREAT I'M AWARE OF!

SHE GIVES NO WARNING AS SHE MOVES WITH A NINJA'S SILENCE...

ONLY RADAR SIGNALS HER PRESENCE...

...AND ONLY REFLEXES MOST MEN CAN EVER DREAM OF LET DAREDEVIL EVADE ERYNYS'S ATTACK.

...COLD FLESH GIVES OFF NO WARMTH FOR ENHANCED FEELING TO REACT AGAINST.

HRRNNGKK

DON'T LEAVE ME, MATT...

I KNOW YOU... FROM HER! I KNOW HOW GOOD ELEKTRA MADE YOU FEEL--

--TOUCH ME LIKE YOU TOUCHED HER, TASTE ME--

--AND HOW MUCH SHE *HURT* YOU!

I'D *DIE* TO *BE* THE *SAME* TO YOU... IN FACT, I *DID*!

WHO--?!

TOO LATE TO STOP ME FROM CLAIMING ELEKTRA'S "LIFE" FOR MY OWN FOREVER!

IT WAS SO EASY TO FOLLOW YOUR STEPS, CHASTE...

...YOU SHOULD'VE SHAKEN THE SNOW FROM YOUR BOOTS BEFORE YOU CAME DOWN OFF YOUR PRECIOUS MOUNTAIN!

TOO LATE TO GROW HARD, STONE!

ELEKTRA! BABE!

THE NAME IS ERYNYS, GARRETT! ERYNYS!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROTEST SO LOUD... THERE'S NO MISTAKING YOU FOR HER!

YOU WOUND ME, MATT... I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO RETURN THE FAVOR!

GAARRGK

N-NO--SHE CAN'T BE--NOT NOW--NOT 'TIL I'M READY!

G-GARRETT--GARRETT, TAKE ME AWAY!

I FEEL IT, TOO... AN' I DON'T GET IT! SHE'S IN YOU... THEY TOOK THAT PART O' HER OUTTA ME--HOW CAN SHE BE--

YEAH... YEAH, ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET BOTH OF US OUTTA HERE!

HE'S READY TO PURSUE, READY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR CONFUSION...

...WHEN HE'S SUDDENLY OVERCOME WITH HIS OWN.

THIS WAS ALWAYS MY LABOR, STONE...

SENSES REEL OUT OF CONTROL.

IN THE BLACKNESS, HE REMEMBERS HER KISS ON HIS LIPS--

--AND TASTES HER ANEW.

SURROUNDED BY DARK, HER PERFUME FILLS HIM--

--THE SCENT AT ONCE EXOTIC AND OH-SO-WELL-KNOWN.

AND DAREDEVIL REACHES OUT FROM HIS PRIVATE NIGHT, HANDS WEAK AS THEY ONCE MORE TOUCH A FAMILIAR WARMTH...

ELEKTRA? ELEKTRA...

HELLO, MATT...

NEXT: SNAKEROOT, MORBIUS, SIEGE, AND A LADY NAMED ELEKTRA: "SALVATION FOR THE DAMNED!"